

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:BH

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NEA/RA:MR.PALMER

NSC:MR.OAKLEY

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O R 232340Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 183422

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MU, US

SUBJECT: MASIRAH

REF: (A) LONDON 10969 (B) MUSCAT 865

1. FYI: WE FULLY APPRECIATE SULTAN QABOOS' DESIRE TO HAVE FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF WHAT CONCEPT WE HAVE IN MIND AFTER BRITISH DEPART. WE DO NEED TIME, HOWEVER, TO CONDUCT NECESSARY DELIBERATIONS WITHIN USG TO DEVELOP A RESPONSE. WE DO NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS NOW UNTIL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER DESIRABLE USAGE OVER THE LONGER TERM AND WHAT WE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO OFFER IN RETURN. WE DO WISH TO MAINTAIN ACCESS AND AS MUCH FREEDOM AS POSSIBLE

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FOR OCCASIONAL USE AS LONG AS RAF IS OPERATING THE AIRFIELD,

BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO INITIATE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS NOW
SINCE IT WOULD TEND TO ACCELERATE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
WE THINK IT IS STILL USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE BRITISH ACTING
AS INTERFACE UNTIL THEY LEAVE NEXT MARCH. END FYI.

2. WHEN YOU NEXT SEE SULTAN QABOOS, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS USG
APPRECIATION FOR THE OMAN GOVERNMENT'S PROMPT APPROVAL OF
THE INITIAL P-3 FLIGHT AND MENTION THAT WE WILL IN THE
FUTURE MAKE SURE THAT THE OMAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE NOTIFIED

AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE FOR NECESSARY FLIGHT
CLEARANCE. YOU SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE OMAN GOVERNMENT'S
INTEREST IN HEARING FROM US ABOUT HOW WE WOULD DEVELOP
OUR USE OF MASIRAH AND THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THIS
QUESTION. HOWEVER, THE ONLY THING WE HAVE IN MIND FOR
THE TIME BEING IS THE OCCASIONAL USE OF THE AIRFIELD AT
A RATE THAT WOULD NOT EXCEED SIX DAYS PER QUARTER.
WE DO NOT
NOW CONTEMPLATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT FACILITIES
BEYOND THOSE WHICH WILL EVIDENTLY BE MAINTAINED BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN FOR ITS OWN OPERATION OF THE AIR
FIELD. YOU MAY ALSO SAY THAT WE ARE OPEN MINDED ABOUT
ANY ARRANGEMENTS THAT HIS MAJESTY MAY HAVE OR WANT TO
HAVE FOR USE OF MASIRAH BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT RESPONSE HE MAY HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO ELICIT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ON THIS SCORE. ROBINSON

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